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Georgetown's Longview Apartment Complex Fire Started on Balcony

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Georgetown Fire Chief Michael Anderson announced today that their investigative team has determined the January 3, 2007 fire at the Longview Apartments in Georgetown started on a third floor balcony. The investigators have concluded that the fire was unintentional and have ruled out most accidental ignition sources but are unable to eliminate the improper disposal of smoking materials as a cause.

The fire at 7 Patriot Lane, Georgetown was jointly investigated by members of the Georgetown Fire Department, Georgetown Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Chief Anderson said, "I am grateful that no one was injured in this fire. I would like acknowledge the efforts of the members of the Georgetown Fire Department and to thank the many neighboring fire departments who provided mutual aid." He added, "I have been amazed by the great community spirit shown by the outpouring of help for the fire victims."

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Code compliance officers in the Office of the State Fire Marshal are continuing to work with the Georgetown Fire Department to see if there are any lessons to be learned in order to prevent a similar occurrence either in this complex or elsewhere in the Commonwealth." He added, "It is important to understand why there was this much damage in a sprinklered building."

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